

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SIG-02 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. NEUMANN  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

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O 122259Z SEP 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USINT BAGHDAD  
USCINCEUR  
DOD/JCS  
CIA  
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 12

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 12,  
1977. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

SPOKESMAN: I HAVE NOTED THAT AT LEAST ONE WIRE SERVICE  
HAS BEATEN ME TO THE PUNCH, BUT I DO HAVE A STATEMENT THAT  
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I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER BASICALLY IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION  
WHAT AND WHY IS THE UNITED STATES PAYING SO MUCH ATTENTION  
TO THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN ITS MIDDLE EAST  
DISCUSSIONS AND THE STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"ALONG WITH THE ISSUES OF THE NATURE OF PEACE, RECOGNI-  
TION, SECURITY AND BORDERS, THE STATUS OF THE PALESTINIANS  
MUST BE SETTLED IN A COMPREHENSIVE ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE  
AGREEMENT. THIS ISSUE CANNOT BE IGNORED IF THE OTHERS ARE  
TO BE SOLVED.

MOREOVER, TO BE LASTING, A PEACE AGREEMENT MUST BE  
POSITIVELY SUPPORTED BY ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT,  
INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS.

THIS MEANS THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE  
PEACEMAKING PROCESS. THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE TO  
BE AT GENEVA FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO BE SOLVED.

AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES  
HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING THE SUCCESS OF  
THE CONFERENCE. WE HAVE THEREFORE BEEN EXPLORING WITH

THE CONFRONTATION STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES WITH REGARD TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

WITH RESPECT TO RESOLUTION 242, ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE SHOULD ADHERE TO THE TERMS OF THAT RESOLUTION AND RESOLUTION 338 WHICH PRESENTLY FORM THE ONLY AGREED BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS."

Q. WHAT PRECIPITATES THIS STATEMENT?

A. BASICALLY BECAUSE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER THE QUESTION ARISES, ONE, WHY ARE WE AS CONCERNED AS WE ARE WITH FINDING A WAY FOR PALESTINIANS TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PEACE CONFERENCE AND, TWO, WHAT IS OUR POSITION ON THEIR REPRESENTATION THERE.

Q. I BELIEVE IT IS CORRECT TO SAY THAT THE ARAB STATES IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS HAVE ALWAYS INSISTED THAT THE WORD "PALESTINIANS" IN THE SENSE OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD TO INCLUDE AT LEAST A LEADERSHIP ROLE, IF NOT THE TOTAL PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.

THE ISRAELIS IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO SAY, HAVE ALWAYS INSISTED THAT IT WAS ALL RIGHT TO HAVE THE PALESTINIANS AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT THERE COULD NOT BE ANY PLO PARTICIPATION.

CLEARLY, THIS IS A DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS EXPRESSION OF YOURS, BUT ARE YOU WILLING TO STATE WHERE THE UNITED STATES COMES DOWN ON WHAT PALESTINIANS YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

A. NO.

BASICALLY WE ARE JUST SAYING TWO THINGS AND I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THIS.

THE FIRST IS, WE ARE SAYING THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

PALESTINIANS WILL HAVE TO BE AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE SINCE THEIR STATUS MUST BE SETTLED IN A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE THAT SETTLEMENT.

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THAT IS ONE THING.

THE SECOND THING IS, TO REPEAT MYSELF, WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES WITH REGARD TO PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

THAT BASICALLY IS WHERE WE ARE.

THE PROCESS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS IS INTENDED TO FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH WHAT WE BELIEVE IS ESSENTIAL, WHICH IS THAT THE PALESTINIANS BE REPRESENTED AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Q. IS ONE OF THOSE ALTERNATIVES A REPRESENTATION BY THE PLO?

A. WHAT WE ARE NOW DISCUSSING IS PRECISELY WHAT THE PROPER FORM OF REPRESENTATION SHOULD BE AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS AS TO WHAT THE SET OF ALTERNATIVES ARE.

Q. AT LEAST ONE MORNING NEWSPAPER LISTED FOUR ALTERNATIVES ABOUT A MONTH AGO THAT WERE PROVIDED BY MR. VANCE TO THE VARIOUS PARTIES.

HAS THERE BEEN ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THESE?

A. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER, BUT I DO REMEMBER THE ARTICLE AND I BELIEVE THAT AMONG THE POINTS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WERE THOSE WHICH I SAW LISTED THERE.

Q. WITH WHOM ARE WE DISCUSSING THIS?

A. THIS IS BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES  
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IN THE MIDDLE EAST, I.E., THE STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND SAUDI ARABIA.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE PLO?

A. WE HAVE NOT HAD DIRECT DISCUSSIONS, AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE, WITH THE PLO. WE ARE NOT HAVING THEM NOW.

Q. DID YOU SAY NOT DIRECTLY?

A. YES. WELL, THE REASON I ALWAYS SAY THAT IS THAT THERE COMES A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WHAT WE ARE DOING IS DISCUSSING WITH THEM WHEN WE PASS ALONG OUR IDEAS TO THE OTHER ARAB STATES AND THEY PASS ALONG TO US WHAT THE PLO SEEMS TO BE SAYING.

BUT, NO, THERE IS NOTHING NEW THAT CHANGES, YOU KNOW, THAT SITUATION.

Q. BUT YOU ARE SAYING WE ARE HAVING AN INDIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO?

A. WELL, I WOULD NOT WANT TO CALL IT AN INDIRECT DIALOGUE, I WOULD SAY, HOWEVER, THAT CLEARLY THERE IS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION GOING ON, IF ONLY THROUGH THE HEADLINES OF NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

IT IS ALSO CLEAR WHAT WE HAVE SAID BEFORE; THAT WHEN WE DISCUSS WITH A NUMBER OF OUR ARAB FRIENDS OUR IDEAS, THAT THOSE MUST SORT OF ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY BE PASSED ALONG, SURE.

Q. I DON'T THINK WE GOT AN ADEQUATE ANSWER TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION OF WHY YOU ARE MAKING THIS STATEMENT NOW. YOU JUST SAID BECAUSE THE QUESTION ARISES.

WELL, HOW DID THE QUESTION ARISE? WHY SHOULD THIS SUDDENLY BE NEEDED NOW? THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN KICKED AROUND FOR AN AWFUL LONG TIME. WHAT PROVOKED YOU PEOPLE TODAY?

A. NOTHING PROVOKED US AT ALL. IT WAS FELT NECESSARY AT THIS TIME BEFORE WE ENTER INTO A NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS HERE THAT THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN REPEATEDLY

AND TO RESTATE AGAIN WHAT IS THE POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THEIR REPRESENTATION.

Q. WELL, WHY WAS IT FELT NECESSARY THOUGH? IS THIS BECAUSE OF SOME FLACK YOU ARE GETTING SOMEWHERE OR WHAT?

A. NO. THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY FLACK. IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER -- I STARTED TO SAY OF OPENNESS AND CANDOR, BUT

I WON'T WALK THAT ONE THROUGH TODAY. IT JUST SEEMED TO

BE AN APPROPRIATE THING TO DO BEFORE RATHER THAN AFTER  
OR AT THE LAST MINUTE TO REDEFINE, TO RESTATE THIS  
PROBLEM.

Q. IF I CAN JUST FOLLOW THAT UP, BASICALLY WHAT YOU ARE  
SAYING HERE IS THAT THIS DOESN'T REPRESENT ANY  
CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY. IT JUST REPRESENTS A STATE-  
MENT OF THE POLICY WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE THE BEGINNING  
OF THE YEAR.

A. YES.

WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE EXTREMELY CLEAR THAT THOSE TWO  
POINTS ARE PERCEIVED TO BE AMERICAN POLICY. THAT IS  
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CLEARLY THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE  
PEACEMAKING PROCESS; THAT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE  
AT GENEVA, THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE  
THERE FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO BE SOLVED.

Q. DO YOU REGARD THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO BE MEMBERS OF  
THE PLO?

A. I THINK THE ONLY PLACE I CAN GO ON THAT IS BACK TO  
WHAT I SAID ORIGINALLY.

WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH  
THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS THE PROPER FORM OF  
REPRESENTATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND THAT IN THE  
ABSENCE, YOU KNOW, OF OUR CONTINUING AND/OR REALLY  
COMPLETING THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANY  
BETTER ANSWER FOR YOU.

Q. SO THAT IS ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES YOU ARE DISCUSSING?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN A WHOLE LIST OF POSSIBILITIES WHICH  
ARISE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST.

Q. OF WHICH THIS IS ONE?

A. YES. BUT, LET ME MAKE AGAIN CLEAR THE OTHER PART OF  
MY ANSWER HERE BECAUSE IT GOES TO THAT QUESTION AND THAT  
IS THAT WITH RESPECT TO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, WE  
REPEAT WHAT WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, THAT ADHERENCE TO 242 AND  
338 IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL AND THAT IS THE ONLY AGREED  
FORM FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

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BEYOND THAT, IT IS AGREED -- AND I HAVE TO SAY THIS TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION -- THAT WE DON'T DECIDE, YOU KNOW, THE NATURE OF THE REPRESENTATION, THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED AT GENEVA, THE ONES WHO CAN DETERMINE WHO CAN COME.

WE ARE SIMPLY SAYING THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE RESOLVED, IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS GOING TO HAVE MEANING IN FINDING A LASTING SOLUTION TO THAT AREA. IT IS UP TO THE PARTIES TO SAY WHO COMES AND HOW THEY COME.

Q. COULD YOU PLEASE CHECK ON WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM ANY OF THE ARAB STATES TO THE EFFECT THAT A STATEMENT OF THIS SORT WOULD EASE THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION IN THIS NEXT ROUND?

A. I WILL ASK THE QUESTION. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU WILL GET AN ANSWER, IF THAT COMES IN THE NATURE OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE OR NOT. BUT, IN ANY CASE I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. IS THIS A SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY IN ANY WAY?

A. I DO NOT FIND IT TO BE A SHIFT. I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE THIS GENERAL POSITION PLAIN IN THE PAST.

I MEAN, I REPEAT, WE HAVE SAID THAT THE STATUS OF THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES MUST BE PRESENT.

Q. WHEN WAS THAT?

A. AT BOTH. I MEAN I JUST REPEATED BOTH THINGS. THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TO BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE  
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AS WELL.

Q. HAS THIS BEEN SAID IN THE PAST?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT WORDS.

Q. I AM JUST WONDERING ABOUT THE SECOND PART OF WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THEIR PARTICIPATING AT THE CONFERENCE.

A. I DON'T HAVE A TEXT IN FRONT OF ME. YOU KNOW, I CAN'T

CITE IT BACK TO YOU AS TO THE PRECISE --

Q. ON THE QUESTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF 242 BY THE PARTICIPANTS AT GENEVA, ONE, I ASSUME YOU MEAN ANY PALESTINIANS WHO WOULD POSSIBLY PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT 242; IS THAT CORRECT?

A. WELL, THAT I THINK IS A GIVEN.

Q. ALL RIGHT.

NOW, SECONDLY -- AND THIS IS WHERE YOU SEEM TO ME AT LEAST TO BE MAKING SOME CHANGE HERE -- PREVIOUSLY THE UNITED STATES POSITION WAS THAT IF THE PLO ACCEPTED 242 WITHOUT ANY CHANGES, THE UNITED STATES WOULD ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO. BUT, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE PLO HAVING TO BE AT GENEVA BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES WAS STANDING BY THE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL THAT ALL ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS HAD A VETO.

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ARE YOU SAYING THAT IF THE PLO ACCEPTED 242, THE UNITED STATES WOULD URGE ISRAEL TO DROP ITS OBJECTIONS TO PARTICIPATION?

A. NO. I REALLY WANT TO REPEAT TWO THINGS AGAIN. FIRST, I AM TALKING ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS GENERALLY. THAT IS THE FIRST THING.

SECOND, INSOFAR AS OUR PARTICULAR DIALOGUE WITH THEM IS CONCERNED, THEY HAVE TO ACCEPT 242 WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE RESERVATION THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF IN PLAINS BACK IN AUGUST.

THIRD, WE CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE CANNOT SAY WHO THE PARTIES WILL BE AT GENEVA; THAT THAT, IN FACT, REMAINS A VETO RIGHT AND THE ACCEPTANCE RIGHT OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES TO THAT CONFERENCE.

WE SIMPLY REPEAT, HAVING SAID THAT, THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THAT CONFERENCE CAN DO ITS JOB WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF PALESTINIANS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AT GENEVA.



NOW, WE ARE NOT TRYING TO TELL THE PARTIES WHO THAT MUST BE. WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THEM POSSIBILITIES ON HOW THAT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Q. ARE WE IN FAVOR OF A PLEBESCITE SO THAT THE

PALESTINIANS COULD VOTE FOR THEIR LEADERS?

A. I THINK THAT I DON'T HAVE A DIRECT ANSWER TO THAT IN TERMS OF IS THAT ONE OF A SET OF POSSIBILITIES THAT WE ARE RAISING. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO DOWN THE LIST OF POSSIBILITIES AS TO WHETHER THAT IS ONE OR THE OTHER.

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WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN EXPLORING A NUMBER OF AVENUES THAT MIGHT HAVE THE NET EFFECT OF PRODUCING REPRESENTATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

Q. RIGHT. CONSIDERING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HOW ELSE WOULD YOU DETERMINE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION THAN BY ALLOWING THE PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN? WOULD YOU SELECT THE PEOPLE WITH THE MOST GUNS OR THE ONES THAT ARE PICKED BY OTHER COUNTRIES? HOW DOES THIS FIT IN WITH THE CARTER DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS?

A. I THINK YOU RAISE A GOOD POINT WHICH IS WHY WE ARE DISCUSSING IT WITH SO MANY PEOPLE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND THE FORMULA WHICH WILL BEST SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, OF THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE PEACE PROCESS, OF A FINAL LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA. AND I WOULDN'T ARGUE WITH YOU ABOUT A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF YOUR QUESTION. MY PROBLEM IS I CAN'T START TALKING ABOUT THE DETAILS OF ANY ONE OF A NUMBER OF APPROACHES.

Q. THE STATEMENT THAT YOU SAID--ACTUALLY, AS IT STANDS NOW, IT EXCLUDES ANY POSSIBILITY FOR THE PLO TO BE AMONG THE PALESTINIANS REPRESENTING THE PALESTINIANS.

A. WELL, I TAKE IT THAT YOU ARE MAKING THAT LEAP BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT ENDORSED OR ACCEPTED 242.

Q. YES.

A. I BELIEVE THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

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Q. AND YOU ALSO SAY THAT EVEN IF THESE PALESTINIAN GROUPS, WHATEVER, WHOEVER THEY MAY BE, ACCEPT 242, IT IS STILL UP TO THE PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO DECIDE WHO PARTICIPATES.

A. THAT IS CORRECT. WHAT WE ARE REALLY TRYING TO SAY

HERE IS, AS WE HAVE SAID ON OTHER ISSUES IN THE PAST, ONE, WE CAN'T IMPOSE A SOLUTION; TWO, WE CAN AT LEAST SAY PUBLICLY, AND WE HOPE WITH SOME WEIGHT, THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A LASTING PEACE IS POSSIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF CERTAIN KINDS OF THINGS BEING DONE, AND THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

Q. YOU SAID EARLIER IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHY DO YOU MAKE THIS STATEMENT, YOU SAID THAT YOU PREFER TO MAKE IT BEFORE RATHER THAN DURING OR AFTER. DO YOU MEAN BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION?

A. THE NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS SIMPLY FELT THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO STATE THIS CLEARLY, SINCE THE QUESTION IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER KEEPS COMING UP OVER AND OVER -- WHAT IS OUR POSITION ON THE PALESTINIANS, WHAT IS OUR POSITION ON THEIR PARTICIPATION. THE TIMING OTHERWISE ISN'T OF ANY PARTICULAR NOTE.

Q. THERE HAS BEEN A QUESTION CONCERNING -- THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PLO THAT HAVE COME UP AT THIS BRIEFING. THE QUESTION CONCERNING A GENERAL STATEMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THE PALESTINIANS, AS YOU SAY, HAS BEEN STATED MANY TIMES.

THE LACK OF CLARITY HAS ARISEN ON AMERICA'S POSITION TOWARDS THE PLO. YOU ARE ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL STATEMENT CONCERNING PALESTINIANS. ARE YOU NOW BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO, OR ARE YOU  
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SAYING THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO?

A. NO.

Q. BECAUSE IF YOU ARE NOT, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT GROUPS OTHER THAN THE PLO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

A. AGAIN, THE REASON WHY I AM NOT ABLE TO REALLY DEAL WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR QUESTION IS THAT IT GOES TO THE HEART OF MUCH OF OUR DISCUSSIONS THAT WE ARE HAVING WITH THE PARTIES, WHICH IS TO TRY TO GO THROUGH A WHOLE LIST OF POSSIBILITIES OF FINDING WAYS FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO BE REPRESENTED.

I AM SIMPLY NOT GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO STAND UP HERE AND DISCUSS OTHER POSSIBILITIES. AND CLEARLY YOU ARE LEFT WITH ONE THING AGAINST A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES THAT I CAN'T DISCUSS.

Q. WE ARE TRYING TO GET TO THE HEART REALLY OF AMERICAN POLICY.

A. AND WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT OUR POLICY RESTS SIMPLY ON THE FUNDAMENTAL THAT WE FEEL THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA, AND THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THAT QUESTION IS CRUCIAL TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION. AND THAT SECOND, OUR MAJOR EFFORTS NOW IN THAT REGARD ARE AIMED AT FINDING WAYS FOR THEM TO BE REPRESENTED. NOW THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO.

Q. DOES ISRAEL SHARE THE U.S. VIEW THAT YOU HAVE EXPRESSED IN THIS STATEMENT?  
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A. I THINK ISRAEL PROBABLY CAN SPEAK FOR ITSELF AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL.

Q. HAS THIS BEEN GIVEN TO THE ISRAELIS?

A. YES, IT HAS.

Q. WHEN WAS THAT?

A. YESTERDAY.

Q. BY WHOM?

A. BY MR. HABIB TO AMBASSADOR DINITZ.

Q. HODDING, DO YOU EXPECT THIS TO BE THE CENTRAL THEME AT THE DISCUSSIONS HERE AND IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK?

A. NO. I THINK WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES. THE NATURE OF PEACE IS ONE. SECURITY AND BORDER RECOGNITION, AND THE STATUS OF THE

PALESTINIANS -- ALL OF THESE ARE GOING TO BE IMPORTANT.  
I WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY TO RANK THEM IN PRIORITY. THERE  
ARE OTHERS -- WAYS WE GET TO GENEVA, AND WHAT WE DO WHEN  
WE GET TO GENEVA, AND WHO WILL BE THERE.

Q. WHY ARE YOU PUTTING EMPHASIS ON IT TODAY THEN?

A. I AM SIMPLY PUTTING EMPHASIS ON IT TODAY BECAUSE IT  
WAS FELT THAT THIS, UNLIKE PERHAPS OTHER AREAS, WAS NOT  
AS CLEAR AS, SAY, FOR INSTANCE, THE FACT OF HOW WE STAND  
ON THE QUESTION OF THE NATURE OF PEACE.

Q. ALSO, CAN YOU SAY IN WHAT FORUM WERE THE TALKS HELD  
WITH THE VARIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES, AND OVER WHAT PERIOD OF  
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TIME EXACTLY.

A. WELL, TO BEGIN WITH, OF COURSE, SECRETARY VANCE  
CLEARLY TALKED TO THEM WHEN HE WENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. I KNOW, BUT WHAT IS NEW ABOUT -- YOU KNOW, YOU ARE  
SAYING HERE YOU ARE EXPLORING A VARIETY OF FORMS.

A. THAT IS NOTHING NEW. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO IT FOR  
SOME TIME AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO IT.

Q. WELL, HAVE THE EFFORTS INTENSIFIED SINCE THE PLO  
REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY LATE LAST MONTH?

A. I DON'T THINK I AM CAPABLE OF GIVING YOU AN ACCURATE  
ANSWER AS TO THE INTENSITY OF THE EFFORTS. I HAVE NOT  
NOTED A GREAT DEAL MORE CONSULTATION.

Q. LET ME PUT MY QUESTION IN A NEGATIVE WAY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS SAID IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GENEVA  
CONFERENCE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. YOU HAVE SAID  
TODAY, WE REPEAT THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS  
CONFERENCE WILL DO THE JOB WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION  
OF THE PALESTINIANS, OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, OR  
PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.  
AND ALSO THAT THESE PALESTINIANS, WHOEVER THEY ARE, MUST  
ACCEPT 242.

NOW, IF IN FACT THERE IS NO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 BY THE PAL-  
ESTINIANS, ARE YOU SAYING IN A NEGATIVE WAY THAT THE  
UNITED STATES DOES NOT SEE MUCH VALUE IN A CONFERENCE  
WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS, IN OTHER WORDS?

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A. WHAT I AM SAYING SPECIFICALLY IS THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS, TO REPEAT MYSELF, THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE TO BE AT GENEVA FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO BE SOLVED, AND THAT ANY PEACE AGREEMENT, IF IT IS GOING TO BE LASTING, MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, AND THIS INCLUDES THE PALESTINIANS.

I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE AS TO HOW FAILURE IS GOING TO BE DEFINED OR HOW IT IS GOING TO FINALLY TURN OUT THAT WE DO OR DON'T HAVE A GENEVA CONFERENCE. THAT IS REALLY WHAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING, AND USING OUR BEST OFFICES RIGHT

NOW TO TRY TO RESOLVE.

Q. IS THIS A MESSAGE TO THE ARABS THAT UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS, AND IN THEIR FRAMEWORK THE PLO, ACCEPT 242, THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T BELIEVE A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS WORTH EVEN TRYING TO HOLD?

A. I DON'T THINK I WOULD SIGNAL THIS AS A MESSAGE BEING SENT TO ANY PARTICULAR PARTY -- ONE OR THE OTHER. I THINK THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO STATE CLEARLY TO EVERYBODY ONE ASPECT OF OUR THREE OR FOUR MAJOR CONCERNS ABOUT THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND THIS ONE HAPPENS TO BE THE STATUS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

Q. IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES THAT THE PALESTINIANS BE PRESENT AT GENEVA AS A SEPARATE IDENTIFIABLE GROUP WITH A SIGN THAT SAYS "PALESTINIANS" IN FRONT OF THEM?

A. AGAIN I THINK THAT THE FORM IN WHICH THEY ARE REPRESENTED IS ONE OF THE MAJOR ITEMS THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES, AND THERE HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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A NUMBER OF INTERESTING IDEAS ADVANCED AND DISCUSSED. AS TO HOW PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, I THINK THAT IS ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TALKS THAT WE ARE NOW HAVING. WE CAN'T DECIDE AND WE CAN'T DEFINE HOW THE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE CHOSEN.

Q. CAN I ASK FOR AN ELABORATION OF THAT? IS IT

ESSENTIAL IN THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIANS BE PALESTINIANS?

A. THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION. I BELIEVE THAT, AGAIN, HOW THE PALESTINIANS WILL BE REPRESENTED -- I MEAN, I BELIEVE THE ONLY ANSWER I CAN GIVE YOU IS THAT HOW THE PALESTINIANS WILL BE REPRESENTED IS PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW. AND I REPEAT THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE TO BE AT GENEVA FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO BE SOLVED.

Q. BUT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES COULD BE EGYPTIANS OR SYRIANS OR JORDANIANS.

A. WE BELIEVE THE PALESTINIANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS. HOW THEY ARE INVOLVED, OF COURSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES AS WELL AS BY US AND THE OTHER PARTIES.

Q. CLARIFYING A POINT ON THE CONSULTATIONS, YOU SPEAK OF THE CONFRONTATION STATES, ARE YOU INCLUDING ISRAEL OR NOT?

A. YES.

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Q. THEY HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THIS AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, IN OTHER WORDS?

A. AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU REMEMBER HOW WE DID THAT THING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. YES.

A. WE HAVE PLAYED BACK WITH ALL THE PARTIES PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO SAY, WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, WHAT IT IS THAT OUR GOALS SEEM TO BE. AND, YES, THE ISRAELIS ARE INCLUDED IN THAT PROCESS FOR CLARIFICATION.

Q. BERNIE, IN HIS QUESTION, SAID THAT YOU WERE SAYING THAT THE PLO WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF 242. AS I READ YOUR STATEMENT, YOU ARE SAYING THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE PEACE CONFERENCE SHOULD ADHERE TO THE TERMS OF 242.

A. YES.

Q. AND MAY BE THAT IS A MEANINGLESS AND EVEN NON-EXISTENT DISTINCTION. BUT IS IT THE SAME THING FOR A PARTY TO SAY IT IS ADHERING TO THE TERMS, AS TO FORMALLY ACCEPT THE TERMS?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT THE TWO ARE SYNONYMOUS.

Q. SO YOU ARE CALLING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF 242?

A. YES. WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR POSITION ON THE NEED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF 242 FOR OUR OWN DISCUSSION WITH THE PLO. WE WOULD SAY THE OBVIOUS, THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PALESTINIANS OR OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA WITHOUT ACCEPTING 242, WHICH PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR THE PEACE  
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TALKS.

Q. HODDING, I'D LIKE TO ASK: HAS THIS ADMINISTRATION SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE WOULD BE POINTLESS WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF

PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES?

A. NO. THAT PARTICULAR PHRASE, AS I NOTE, SEEMS TO BE MINE ALONE. I THINK I'D BETTER JUST SAY VERY CLEARLY THAT WE SAY THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A LASTING PEACE.

Q. WELL, A NATURAL FOLLOW-UP QUESTION IS: DOES THIS MEAN -- THE STATEMENT TODAY MEAN -- THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE TO BE THERE AT THE BEGINNING OF A CONFERENCE, OR ARE YOU EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT A CONFERENCE COULD CONVENE SOMETIME THIS YEAR AND SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR LATER THE PALESTINIANS COULD SHOW UP?

A. NO. I'M SAYING AGAIN THAT THE NATURE OF THE REPRESENTATION, THE TIME -- ALL THE REST OF IT -- IS INCLUDED IN WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DISCUSS NOW AND THAT WE SIMPLY FEEL THAT FOR THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED, WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED FOR LASTING PEACE, THE PALESTINIANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA.

Q. SOMETIME?

A. NOW, WHEN, HOW -- ALL THE REST -- ARE PRECISELY WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW.  
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Q. JUST SO THAT I COULD GET A DIRECT ANSWER TO THIS, YOU HAVE NOT EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PALESTINIANS COULD APPEAR AT A GENEVA CONFERENCE AFTER IT HAS BEEN CONVENED?

A. NO. WHAT I'M NOT PREPARED TO DO IS GO DOWN A LIST OF WHAT IS EXCLUDED AND NOT EXCLUDED. I WOULD SIMPLY SAY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WHOLE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES, BUT ALWAYS WITH ONE OBJECTIVE: THAT THE PALESTINIANS, WE BELIEVE, MUST BE REPRESENTED AT THAT CONFERENCE.

Q. HAS ANYTHING OCCURRED TO LEAD THE ADMINISTRATION TO BELIEVE THAT THIS PROSPECT IS MORE POSSIBLE OF SOLUTION NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE, OR IS THE REVERSE TRUE -- IS THE ADMINISTRATION NOW CONVINCED THAT THE PROBABILITY OF A DEADLOCK IS STRONGER NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE VANCE'S TRIP?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE'S AN APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. I BELIEVE THAT WE BELIEVE, AS THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAVE SAID, THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME LIMITED PROGRESS, THAT THE OBSTACLES REMAIN RATHER LARGE.

Q. THAT'S NOT THE THRUST OF MY QUESTION. THE THRUST OF MY QUESTION IS: ARE YOU MAKING THIS STATEMENT NOW BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT, OR ARE YOU MAKING IT BECAUSE YOU SEE THE STRONG PROBABILITY OF A DEADLOCK?

A. NO. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE, THAT A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. WE ARE LENDING EVERY EFFORT TO THAT. I'M NOT MAKING THE STATEMENT BECAUSE WE ARE AT THIS POINT PREPARED IN ANY WAY TO WRITE IT OFF OR HAVE MADE AN INTERNAL

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DECISION THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WRITE IT OFF, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q. HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THESE QUESTIONS WITH THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE? IF YES, WITH WHAT RESULTS; IF NOT, ARE YOU GOING TO DISCUSS IT -- WHEN, IF SO?



A. WE HAVE DISCUSSED GENERALLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION OUR CO-RESPONSIBILITIES AS CO-CHAIRMEN; AND THAT DISCUSSION HAS TAKEN PLACE A NUMBER OF TIMES, INCLUDING GIVING THEM AN IDEA OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN THE AREA. AS PART OF THAT, I AM POSITIVE THAT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA.

Q. WERE ARAB AMBASSADORS GIVEN ADVANCE COPIES OF THIS STATEMENT?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

Q. THEN WHY WAS ISRAEL GIVEN AN ADVANCE COPY?

A. I DON'T REALLY HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU.

Q. COULD WE GET AN ANSWER FOR THAT? YOU SAID EARLIER IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT THIS WAS NOT ADDRESSED PARTICULARLY TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. THEREFORE, IF IT WAS MEANT EQUALLY FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHY DID WE SINGLE OUT ONLY ONE OF THOSE PARTICIPANTS TO GET AN ADVANCE COPY AND BE WARNED THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS COMING? WHY NOT THE OTHERS? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT HERE? AND, IF SO, WHAT'S THE REASON FOR A DIFFERENCE

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IN TREATMENT?

A. IF I UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION, I THINK I'D BETTER TAKE IT.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSIONS THAT PRECEDED THIS -- WHEN THIS WAS DECIDED UPON THAT THIS STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED?

A. NO.

Q. YOU SAID THAT IT WAS GIVEN BY HABIB TO AMBASSADOR DINITZ YESTERDAY.

A. -- I WOULD SAY, WITHOUT GOING INTO ANY GREAT DETAIL, IT WAS RECENTLY. THE WHITE HOUSE IS OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF WHAT I'M SAYING; AND WHAT I'M SAYING IS AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT, A POSITION BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

Q. IF IT'S AUTHORITATIVE, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT PRECISELY DO YOU MEAN BY "THE PALESTINIANS"? AND IN THIS CONTEXT, DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT IF ARAFAT ATTENDS

AND HABASH IS NOT INVITED THAT HABASH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO  
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I THINK THAT THE QUESTION OF WHO MAY OR MAY NOT  
ATTEND IS PRECISELY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO TALK ABOUT, AND  
I CAN'T SPECULATE ON WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECTS OF THIS  
GROUP AND NOT THAT GROUP BEING THERE OR THAT PERSON AND  
NOT THAT PERSON BEING THERE. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. YES, I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTY HERE. I HOPE YOU  
CAN UNDERSTAND OUR DIFFICULTY WHEN YOU SAY THE PALES-  
TINIANS MUST BE PRESENT.

A. YES.  
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Q. THE QUESTION IS WHICH PALESTINIANS, SINCE THEY OFTEN  
FIGHT EACH OTHER.

A. YES. THAT'S REALLY WHY WE'RE DISCUSSING THIS WITH  
SOME -- I STARTED TO SAY "FERVOR," BUT THAT'S TOO GOOD A  
HEADLINE (LAUGHTER) -- WHY WE ARE DISCUSSING THIS WITH  
SOME INTEREST BECAUSE WE PRECISELY WANT TO TRY TO RE-  
SOLVE THAT.

Q. HAVE WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY WITH THE ARAB  
COUNTRIES OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION BY SOMEONE OTHER  
THAN THE PLO?

A. I DOUBT THAT I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT  
QUESTION BECAUSE IT WOULD GO INTO WHAT, AGAIN, IS A PIECE  
OF STRING YOU START PULLING; AND IF I CAN TELL YOU WE  
DISCUSSED THAT, I'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU EVERY-  
THING ELSE WE DISCUSSED. BUT, IN ANY CASE, I'LL SEE IF  
I CAN GET YOU AN ANSWER. I DOUBT IT.

Q. I'M STILL NOT CLEAR ABOUT THE COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL  
REGARDING U.S. CONTACTS -- OFFICIAL OPEN CONTACTS WITH THE  
PLO. DOES THE PLO HAVE TO ACCEPT 242 AS WELL AS EXPLI-  
CITLY STATE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, AS WAS CODIFIED IN  
THE U.S.-ISRAELI MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT -- OR DOES THE  
U.S. POSITION SAY THAT THE PLO MERELY HAS TO ACCEPT 242  
WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING EXPLICITLY ABOUT ISRAEL'S RIGHT  
TO EXIST?

A. WE STAND ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AS THE  
SECRETARY SAID, I BELIEVE, IN AMMAN AND I WILL SAY AGAIN  
HERE.  
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Q. SEVERAL ARAB LEADERS TOLD MR. VANCE AND THE PRESS WITH HIM THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE PLO WOULD NOT HAVE TO ATTEND GENEVA, PROVIDING THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN

RIGHTS COULD BE SETTLED IN ADVANCE OF GENEVA. IS THE ISSUANCE OF THIS STATEMENT EVIDENCE THAT EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION OUTSIDE OF GENEVA HAVE FAILED AND THAT THERE'S NO PROSPECT FOR THEM?

A. I DON'T RECALL THAT DIRECT REFERENCE, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST WITH YOU. I DON'T THINK THAT IT REPRESENTS THAT, HOWEVER. TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE REASON FOR THE STATEMENT.

Q. COMING BACK TO MY QUESTION -- SHALL I RESTATE IT? DOES THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO THE U.S. INTERPRETATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT, MEAN THAT THE PLO WILL HAVE TO EXPLICITLY STATE THAT IT ACCEPTS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST?

A. AS THE SECRETARY HAS NOTED, ACCEPTANCE OF 242 HAS TO CARRY WITH IT THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. AND I AGAIN HAVE TO REPEAT: WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY CHANGE FROM THE POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED REPEATEDLY ON THIS SUBJECT; AND I STAND ON THAT, AS HE HAS SAID AT LEAST TWICE WITHIN THE LAST MONTH AND A HALF.

Q. ANOTHER QUESTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI DRAFT PEACE TREATY WHICH IS NOW BEING GIVEN WIDER BERTH IN ISRAEL -- PARTICULARLY THE PART IN WHICH MR. DAYAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING ESSENTIALLY THAT THE WEST BANK SHOULD STAY UNDER ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME AUTONOMY FOR LOCAL ARABS?

A. THE PRESS REPORTS ARE VERY INTERESTING, BUT IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ABSENCE OF THEIR PUBLISHING THE PLAN AS A FORMAL PLAN -- AND PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF MR. DAYAN ACTUALLY COMING HERE WITH IT -- I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT.

Q. DOES THE U.S. STILL BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE A PALESTINIAN ENTITY OR HOMELAND, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

A. YES. ENTITY. I BELIEVE ALL THE WORDS HAVE BEEN USED.

2. QUESTION TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 9:

AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ISRAEL AND VARIOUS ARAB STATES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO MEET THE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WHILE THEY ARE IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THE WHITE HOUSE WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE DATES OF THOSE MEETINGS ONCE THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS FIRMLY SET.

3. QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 12:

Q. WOULD YOU CHECK ON WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM ANY OF THE ARAB STATES TO THE EFFECT THAT A STATEMENT OF THIS SORT WOULD EASE THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION IN THE NEXT ROUND?

A. NO.

Q. IF THE STATEMENT WAS MEANT EQUALLY FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHY DID WE SINGLE OUT ONLY ONE OF THOSE PARTICIPANTS TO GET AN ADVANCED COPY AND BE WARNED THAT THE STATEMENT WAS COMING? WHY NOT THE OTHERS?  
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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT AND WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT?

A. AS THE QUESTION INDICATES THIS STATEMENT SETTING FORTH THE U.S. POSITION IS INTENDED FOR ALL. THE DECISION TO INFORM THE ISRAELIS IN ADVANCE WAS TAKEN, BECAUSE WE FELT IT WOULD BE A USEFUL STEP. NOTHING MORE SHOULD BE READ INTO IT.

Q. HAVE WE DISCUSSED WITH ARAB COUNTRIES THE POSSIBILITY OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PLO?

A. THIS QUESTION GETS INTO THE CONTENT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AND AS WE HAVE STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE EXCHANGES.

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## Message Attributes

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